

## Minutes of Accounts & Audit Sub-Committee

Meeting Date: Thursday, 13 September 2018, starting at 10am  
Present: Councillor S Hirst (Chairman)

Councillors:

A Knox  
R Sherras

In attendance: Chief Executive, Head of Legal and Democratic Services (Monitoring Officer) and Investigating Officer.

Also in attendance: Councillors S Atkinson, J Alcock, S Bibby, A Brown, S Brunskill, T Hill, B Hilton, K Hind, S Hind, G Mirfin, R Thompson, N Walsh.

### 251 APOLOGIES

There were no apologies for absence from the meeting.

### 252 DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY AND NON-PECUNIARY INTEREST

There were no declarations of pecuniary and non-pecuniary interest.

### 253 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 1 August 2018 were approved as a correct record.

A Councillor (the Subject Member) commented in relation to Minute 188 and reiterated his concern that on 1 August a member of the public assisting him as his legal representative had not been allowed to stay in the meeting when both the Monitoring Officer and Investigating Officers were qualified Solicitors.

He also reiterated his objection made to Councillor Hirst acting as Chairman or sitting on the Sub-Committee panel hearing.

At this point in the meeting the Chief Executive made a statement.

“He reported that the complaint had now been running since last November and the procedure being used was the National Model and in line with National Guidance. He had just informed the Sub-Committee in the briefing that because of the:

- i) refusal by the Subject Member to accept the Council’s agreed procedure;
- ii) the constant undermining of the Council’s procedure by the Subject Member both internally within the Council and externally to third parties; and

iii) the interference and intimidation experienced throughout the entire process.

That he intended to report to the next Accounts and Audit Committee that Council Officers felt unable to reach a satisfactory conclusion to this complaint.

He would be advising both the Independent Persons and the Complainant of this decision and more details would be given to the Accounts and Audit Committee as to why this decision had reluctantly been reached.”

The Chief Executive reminded Councillors that the Council has a duty of care to its employees and he takes this responsibility very seriously.

The Sub-Committee accepted this decision but expressed concern about determination of the complaint.

The meeting closed at 10.09am.

If you have any queries on these minutes please contact Marshal Scott (425111).